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# The Salvation Army

Addiction Treatment Services

# LATE TESTIMONY

**Topic: SB701: Relating to Sentencing**  
**To: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS:** Senator Will Espero, Chair; Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
**When:** Tuesday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 2:45 pm  
**Place:** Conference Room 224

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 701

### ALOHA CHAIR ESPERO, VICE CHAIR KIDANI, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Larry Williams, executive director of The Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services. ATS provides a comprehensive continuum of substance abuse treatment services for more than 1,200 adults annually, many of whom are referred from Hawaii's criminal justice system. I **support passage of Senate Bill No. 701** for the following reasons:

For many people in need of alcohol and drug treatment, contact with the criminal justice system is their first opportunity for treatment. A substance use disorder may be recognized and diagnosed for the first time, and legal incentives to enter substance abuse treatment sometimes motivate the individual to begin recovery. For other offenders, arrest and incarceration are part of a recurring cycle of drug abuse and crime. Ingrained patterns of maladaptive coping skills, criminal values and beliefs, and a lack of job skills may require a more intensive treatment approach, particularly among offenders with a prolonged history of substance abuse and crime.

The need for treatment is high. For men and women whose struggle with substance abuse brings them into contact with the legal system, the personal losses can be enormous: families can break apart, health deteriorates, freedom is restricted, and far too often, lives are lost. But this is just the beginning of the potential devastation. Personal costs to the victims of crime are immeasurable. The effects of every theft, burglary, and violent crime reverberate throughout the whole community. Economic losses include the costs of arresting, processing, and incarcerating offenders, as well as the costs of police protection, increased insurance rates, and property losses.

Treatment saves money and lives.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the **Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, And Military Affairs support SB701 by passing it out of committee.**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input regarding this important subject matter.

Participating Agency



Aloha United Way

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**From:** Jud Cunningham [jcunningham@aloha-house.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 9:53 AM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Subject:** SB701

## HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

**Subject: SB701:** *RELATING TO SENTENCING - Permits certain non-violent repeat offenders convicted of drug possession to be sentenced to alternative programs instead of to prison.*

**To:** COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS: Senator Will Espero, Chair; Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

**When:** Tuesday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 2:45 pm in Room 224

My name is Jud Cunningham and for thirty plus years have worked in a leadership capacity in the behavioral health field. I hereby submit this testimony in support of passage of SB 701. The cost to society of the disease of addiction has been documented to be very dear, not only in terms public safety and the courts, but also medical costs, loss of productivity, not to mention the wear and tear on children and the family. Treatment for addiction, in many instances, is an effective and lower cost alternative to incarceration. It is important that we as a society begin to recognize this and offer help instead of punishment for non-violent repeat offenders. Thank you.

Jud R. Cunningham, LSW, CEO  
Aloha House, Inc.